

TSA's Travel Tips

Before you go . . .

- **Leave lighters at home.** TSA collects over 30,000 lighters a day and more than 80 percent of prohibited items surrendered are lighters.
- Pack valuables such as jewelry, cash and electronics, as well as fragile items, in your carry-on.
- Wearing footwear that can be easily removed helps speed you through the screening process. Screening may include X-ray inspection of your shoes.
- Avoid wearing clothing, belts, jewelry and accessories that contain metal, which will set off the metal detector.
- Put all undeveloped film in your carry-on bag, because checked baggage screening equipment may damage film. If your film is over ASA/ISO 800, or has been sent through an X-ray machine five times, request a hand inspection.
- Place firearms and ammunition in your checked baggage and declare them to your airline. Firearms must be unloaded and carried in a locked, hard-sided container. Ammunition must be transported in packaging specifically designed to carry small amounts of ammunition.
- Lock your baggage using a TSA-accepted lock. A list of these locks can be found at www.tsa.gov.
- Medications and medical equipment are allowed through the security checkpoint. Visit www.tsa.gov, Persons With Disabilities & Medical Conditions, under Travelers & Consumers for specific information.

When you arrive . . .

- Take your laptop and video cameras with cassettes out of their cases for screening.
- Remove your outer coat, suit coat, jacket or blazer to place in bin for X-ray.
- Place the following items in your carry-on baggage before entering the screening checkpoint: cell phones and personal data assistants, keys, loose change, jewelry and large metal items.

TSA Points of Contact

Security Checkpoint Wait Times

To assist in planning your arrival time at the airport, TSA provides historical wait time information at www.tsa.gov.

TSA Claim Form for Missing or Damaged Items

TSA security officers exercise great care to ensure that your property is properly handled should baggage need to be opened.

However, if you believe TSA is responsible for damage or loss, you can file a claim using www.tsa.gov.

You can also check the status of your claim online.



Contact Center

For questions or concerns about security and screening. Call the Contact Center toll-free at (866) 289-9673 or by E-mail at TSA-ContactCenter@dhs.gov.

Lost Items

If you lost or left an item at a TSA security checkpoint, you can locate the lost and found contact numbers for specific airports by visiting www.tsa.gov.

Additional Note on Prohibited Items:

The Prohibited Items list applies to flights originating within the United States. Please check with your airline or travel agent for restrictions at destinations outside the United States. If you bring a prohibited item to the checkpoint, you will be asked to voluntarily surrender the item and may be criminally and/or civilly prosecuted.



Travel Tips

Important Information for Air Travelers



Transportation
Security
Administration



At the Security Checkpoint

Screening of passengers

- The refined pat-down procedure includes a screening from the shoulder to wrist. Exposed skin or clothes that clearly reveal there is not a threat will not require screening. Throughout the process, TSOs will communicate with the passenger, and private screenings are available upon request.
- Passengers may also be selected randomly for an additional search. These searches are straightforward for passengers, but add complexity to those who would wish to exploit our system. By design, a traveler will not experience the same search every time he or she flies. These searches include:
 - Shoe screening
 - Hand wand of passengers
 - Pat-down procedures
 - Carry-on bag searches
 - Explosives Trace Portal machines

Simple Ways To Make Air Travel Easier

- Visit TSA's Web site, www.tsa.gov, before you travel for up-to-date travel-related and security information.
- Leave your lighters at home.
- If your bag is opened for inspection, it may be difficult to repack the same way or to close. Don't overstuff your carry-on or checked baggage.
- If you require extra time during screening or have special needs, be sure to let the security officer know before you begin your screening.
- Talk to children about the screening process before arriving at the airport so they won't be frightened or surprised.

Prohibited Items Changes

Scissors

Small scissors with a cutting edge four inches or less are allowed through the checkpoint and into the cabin of an aircraft.

***All knives are still prohibited through the checkpoint.**

Tools

Screwdrivers, wrenches, pliers and other tools seven inches or less in length are permitted. All tools greater than seven inches in length, as well as all crowbars, drills, drill bits, hammers and saws continue to be prohibited.

Why Has TSA Changed the Security Process?

In the past, security measures at every airport were standard. Whether you were a frequent flyer or a potential terrorist, you knew what to expect. With recent changes to security procedures, that predictability no longer applies. The new procedures are easy for passengers to navigate, but difficult for terrorists to manipulate. They include new random searches of passengers and their carry-on bags as well as a refined pat-down and an updated prohibited items list.

Amending the prohibited items list to permit certain low-risk, high-volume items through the screening checkpoint allows TSA to focus resources to identify and prevent more serious threats such as explosives from passing through the checkpoint.

